

Story #343 (Collected orally and then in
written form; not taped.)

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The Cat and the Rabbit

Once in a forest there lived a cat and a rabbit. They were very good friends.

One day when they were walking together through the forest they found a big piece of cheese. They were very pleased, and agreed to share it. They decided that the rabbit should divide it into two equal shares. The rabbit tried hard to divide it equally, but could not. little bit bigger than the other.

They began to quarrel over the pieces, since each wanted to have the bigger piece for himself. Just then a fox came along and asked them what their quarrel was all about. They explained the matter to the fox, and he replied that he could solve their problem, since he could make the pieces

The fox took a bite of the bigger piece, to make it equal to the smaller one. But the bite was too big; now the other piece was bigger. He bit the other piece, but again the bite was too big. One piece was

So he continued in this way until both pieces of cheese were finished. "Well," said the fox as the last crumb of cheese disappeared, "I wasn't able to solve your problem, after all. But thank you for the cheese!" And he trotted off through the forest.

The cat and the rabbit looked after him as he went. "Next time," the cat decided, "we'll solve our problem ourselves."

"And, after all," added the rabbit, "the smaller piece would have